

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

**March 4 2008 TORNADOES**

**SITUATION REPORT #3**

**1200 Hours March 6, 2008**

*New information is in BOLD ITALICS. The Next Situation report will be March 7 2008 at 1300 hours*

## SUMMARY

In the early evening hours of March 4 a cold front moving across the Commonwealth generated storm activity. These storms produced rain, wind and reported tornadoes. National Weather Service will conduct inspections during the day March 5, 2008 to make this determination. The NWS is receiving reports of storm related damage from across the Commonwealth. Preliminary damage reports have been received from several jurisdictions and state agencies. No injuries or deaths have been reported. ***The NWS Morristown confirmed that an F1 Tornado did touch down in Big Stone Gap, Wise County Virginia.***

## EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The Virginia VEOC is at Response Operations with augmented staffing.

**State of Emergency:** Governor Kaine declared a State of Emergency at 1119 hours 5 March 2008.

**Federal Declaration:** No declaration has been requested at this time.

**Protective Actions:** Local Emergency Declared by:  
Wise County at 1800 hours 4 March 2008  
Town of Big Stone Gap at 1700 hours 4 March 2008  
Essex County at 0800 hours 5 March 2008

## WEATHER

**Forecast:** ***Western Virginia: Tonight: Increasing clouds, with a low around 40. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm. Friday: Rain likely, mainly after 1pm. Cloudy, with a high near 48. East wind between 3 and 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between three quarters and one inch possible.***

***Eastern Virginia: Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. East winds between 5 and 7 mph. Friday: Periods of rain, mainly after 4pm. High near 54. East wind between 7 and 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.***

## OPERATIONS SECTION

**Local Liaison:** Regional Coordinators and Hazardous Materials Officers are maintaining contact with localities with regard to resources.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

**ESF 9 – Search and Rescue:** One SAR request made for Big Stone Gap in Wise County. This request was withdrawn prior to arrival of Blue Diamond ground search team. Region 4 Technical Rescue Team ***assisted*** Wise County.

**ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services:** Virginia Department of Health (VDH)  
Agency reports one manufactured home damaged in Russell County. Agency personnel, including MRC, on standby to support sheltering as are other

resources. VDH reported that all shelters closed at midnight 4 March, no evacuees required sheltering. No injuries were reported during the night. Damage assessments continue.

**ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security:**

Virginia State Police (VSP)

***A VSP Pilot was scheduled to fly VDEM Regional Coordinator in an over flight of the damaged area to obtain pictorial images of damage, however the flight was cancelled.*** Virginia State Police report possible tornado in Prince William County overturning vehicles on I-95. Flooding also reported in the Dumfries area.

**INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH**

**ESF 1 – Transportation:**

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Agency responded to request for signage from Wise County. No VDOT facilities have been reported as damaged. In the Bristol District, VDOT crews are working on scattered tree removals in Washington, Smyth, Wythe, and Grayson Counties. They also have trees in the Coeburn and Glade Morgan Areas. No reported lane closures.

***VDOT to provide 2 front end loaders, transportation, chainsaws and safety equipment to support DOC personnel in debris removal in Big Stone Gap on 5 March at 1735 hours.***

**ESF 12 – Energy:**

Power to the affected areas continues to be restored and minimal customers are currently impacted.

**LOGISTICS SECTION**

**ESF 7 – Resource Support:**

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

***3 requests for assistance were cancelled. 3 requests are currently in progress. On 3/05/2008 VDEM Regional Coordinator cancelled his request to the VSP for an over flight of the damaged area in Big Stone Gap. The Department of Corrections will provide 20 inmates to assist in the debris removal from the Big Stone Gap area requested 1635 hours 3/5/2008.***

**LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

**Wise County:**

Reports 6 houses destroyed, 15 with major damage, 25 with moderate or lesser damage. EOC is open and local emergency declared. One shelter was opened, but closed at midnight 4 March. ***Red Cross located at the Mountain Empire Older Citizen facility is providing feeding and other services to citizens.***

**Louisa County:**

Reports 1 home destroyed, 4 damaged.

**Essex County:**

Reports 2 buildings destroyed, 12 damaged. A fire station has sustained roof damage and 2 schools have sustained minor damage. One business (Veterinarian) reports damage with no injury/death to people or animals.

**Westmoreland County:**

Sustained damages in the Nomini Grove, Hauge and Coles Point areas. Trees are down across the county. Reports 3 agricultural barns destroyed, 2 agricultural barns with damage and 1 fire station damaged but still operational.

**Goochland County**

***An unconfirmed tornado touched down in the Hadensville area affecting 5 Addresses with minor to moderate damage. No residences were affected. Damage was limited to outbuildings, carports and trees. Two businesses were damaged. Total damage estimates are less than \$100,000.***

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